Andrea Kousagan

“Blackout” Lesson Plans

Grade: 5

Subject: Reading

Skills: Main Idea and Details; Summary

Objectives: Determine the main idea and identify details; use main idea and details to summarize

Common Core State Standards: Informational Text 2: Determine two or more main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported by key details; summarize the text

Literature 2; Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text

Materials: one copy of “Blackout” by John Rocco; a class set of summary graphic organizer worksheets

Lesson Outline:

1. Introduce
   1. Teacher will explain the following:
      1. Main ideas provide the most important information about a topic and help you summarize as you read
      2. Sometimes main ideas are stated; other times readers have to figure them out
2. Teach
   1. Teacher will read the first 8 pages of “Blackout” to model how to summarize the story so far
      1. Model: “The first several pages show me that a little girl finds a board game to play and tries to get others to play with her. However, it appears that everyone is too busy (on the computer, cooking, talking on the phone) to play the board game.”
   2. Teacher will read the rest of “Blackout” to find the main idea and details
      1. Model: “After reading this story, I can comprehend that the people in the story come together during the power outage. In the beginning of the story, everyone was too busy and self-involved. When they were given an opportunity to appreciate one another’s company, they took advantage and had a great time together.”
3. Practice and Assess
   1. Teacher will distribute summary graphic organizer worksheets to each student.
   2. Students will complete the graphic organizer by recounting the information from “Blackout”. Answers may vary, but should include the idea that summaries reflect understanding of the main ideas.
   3. Students will use the information from the summary graphic organizer to write a paragraph about “Blackout”.